

PIMA COUNTY COMMISSION ON TRIAL COURT APPOINTMENTS

MINUTES

November 23, 2020

PRESENT via ZOOM: Justice Andrew Gould, Chair; Sherry Downer; Neal Eckel; Michael Hennessy; Marian Hill; Julie Katsel; Cassia Lundin; Walter Nash; John Smith and Nanette Warner

ABSENT: Richard Schaefer

Justice Andrew Gould called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

Justice Gould introduced himself and determined there was a quorum.

Public Comment

Justice Gould asked for public comments on the candidates. He named each speaker that had signed up to speak and reminded the speakers that they would be limited to two minutes each.

Meenakshi Dagar spoke on behalf of Reagen A. Kulseth.

Meagan K. Page spoke on behalf of Efthymios Katsarelis.

Malinda Sherwyn spoke against Lisa Abrams and T. Ken Sanders.

Joseph Ricks spoke on behalf of Efthymios Katsarelis.

Patricia Cummins spoke against Lisa Abrams, T. Ken Sanders, and Victoria Otto.

Anne Turner spoke on behalf of Victoria Otto.

Karna Walter spoke on behalf of Danielle Kamps Constant.

Approval of Minutes

Justice Gould asked if any member wished to submit changes or additions to the draft minutes of the November 9, 2020 meeting. It was moved that the minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Investigation Reports

Commission members took turns to discuss the due diligence reports for Reagen A. Kulseth, Efthymios S. Katsarelis, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz, Lisa I. Abrams and Gary J. Cohen. The Commission agreed to discuss the rest of the reports after lunch.

A motion to go to executive session was made at 9:31 a.m. The motion was second and passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to public session at 9:47 a.m.

Break at 9:49 a.m.

Disqualifications and Disclosures

Justice Gould asked to start with any disqualifications and disclosures.

Cassia Lundin disclosed that Commissioner T. Ken Sanders presided over her brother's divorce case.

John Smith disclosed that Reagen A. Kulseth has appeared before him as a Judge pro tempore in the past.

Candidate Interviews

From 10:03 a.m. to 11:44 a.m. the Commission interviewed Reagen A. Kulseth, Efthymios S. Katsarelis, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz and Lisa I. Abrams.

A motion to go to executive session was made at 11:43 a.m. The motion was second and passed unanimously.

The Commission returned to public session at 11:59 a.m.

From 11:59 a.m. to 12:31 p.m. the Commission continued with the interview of Lisa I. Abrams and Gary J. Cohen.

The Commission recessed for lunch at 12:32 p.m.

Justice Gould called the meeting back to order at 1:12 p.m.

Justice Gould called on speaker Anita Simons to speak on behalf of Victoria Otto.

Investigation Reports

Commission members took turns to discuss the due diligence reports for Sivan R. Korn, Danielle J. Kamps Constant, T. Ken Sanders, Nanette C. Morrow, Victoria Otto and Jeffrey L. Sklar.

Candidate Interviews

From 1:42 p.m. to 4:29 p.m. the Commission interviewed Sivan R. Korn, Danielle J. Kamps Constant, T. Ken Sanders, Nanette C. Morrow, Victoria Otto and Jeffrey L. Sklar.

Discussion of Candidates and Interviews

Justice Gould explained that he would read the names of each candidate in the order of the interviews. The Commission took turns discussing each candidate.

Break at 5:19 p.m.

The Commission continued discussing each candidate.

Selection of Nominees

Justice Gould suggested that a non-binding straw vote would be helpful to determine a potential nomination list. He explained that he would read the names of each candidate in alphabetical order. The results of the votes were:

Lisa I. Abrams- 7
Gary J. Cohen- 7
Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz- 9
Danielle J. Kamps Constant- 3
Efthymios S. Katsarelis- 2
Sivan R. Korn- 7
Reagen A. Kulseth- 4
Nanette C. Morrow- 6
Victoria A. Otto- 9
T. Ken Sanders- 8
Jeffrey L. Sklar- 9

Marian Hill moved to add Lisa I. Abrams, Gary J. Cohen, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz, Sivan R. Korn, Reagen A. Kulseth, Nanette C. Morrow, Victoria A. Otto, T. Ken Sanders and Jeffrey L. Sklar to the list of nominees to be sent to the Governor. The motion failed by a vote of 4-5-1 with Justice Gould abstaining.

Walter Nash moved to add Lisa I. Abrams, Gary J. Cohen, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz, Danielle J. Kamps Constant, Sivan R. Korn, Reagen A. Kulseth, Nanette C. Morrow, Victoria A. Otto, T. Ken Sanders and Jeffrey L. Sklar to the list of nominees to be sent to the Governor. The motion was second and passed by a vote of 8-1-1 with Justice Gould abstaining.

The tentative list consisting of **Lisa I. Abrams, Gary J. Cohen, Kimberly A. Harris Ortiz, Danielle J. Kamps Constant, Sivan R. Korn, Reagen A. Kulseth, Nanette C. Morrow, Victoria A. Otto, T. Ken Sanders and Jeffrey L. Sklar** was adopted as the final nomination list for submission to Governor Ducey.

Adjournment

Justice Gould thank the Commission members for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.